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§ 47. **Bees and Flowers.**—I find that the behaviour of bees is governed by circumstances. When flowers are abundant they visit those only which they prefer, at other times they examine any thing which comes in their way. I have seen honey bees attack the vineyard ; though, as a general thing, it would be safe to say they would not eat grapes.

At the time I am writing, May 18th, there is a dearth of garden flowers. Those of the early spring are gone, and the later ones are not well forward. But *Aquilegiae* in many species are in bloom. The humble-bee bores the ends of the nectaries, and sucks the honey stored there ; and the honey-bee follows and sucks from the same hole what may be left, or what may be afterwards generated from the honey gland. I have often watched closely to learn whether the honey-bee bored for honey. Its quick motions are unfavorable to correct observation. I thought once I had caught it boring lilac flowers, but I afterwards counted all the flowers that had been bored by the humble bee, and then watched the work of the honey bee on the cluster, and there were no more bored afterwards than before. The *Aquilegiae* with curved nectaries, such as *A. vulgaris* and *A. Olympica* are very favorable for observation, as the slit is made on the upper side of the curve, and the honey-bee can be easily seen following after the crumbs that have been left on the strong one's table. I have no doubt, however, it would bore for itself if it had the power, and it perhaps sometimes does. The humble-bee and the honey-bee are evidently not the insects for which the *Aquilegia* had this beautifully contrived nectar cup provided to induce cross-fertilization, and what particular insect was designed to be the favored one, so that it and no other could turn its tongue around these twisted spurs to get at the honey in the end, I think no student has discovered.

THOMAS MEEHAN.

§ 48. **Notes on the behavior of Fig trees after an unusually severe winter in Syria.**—The last winter was one of rare severity in Syria. Ice formed a quarter of an inch thick in Beirut. Snow fell to the depth of several inches. Such phenomena had not occurred for twenty years. As a result of this extraordinary cold, many fig trees in the mountains died and the growth of the fig orchards of the plain was seriously checked.

The fig tree usually puts forth its bud, which is an inverted torus lined with apetalous flowers, at the time of the first appearance of the young leaves. In fact, the fruit bud is a little in advance of the young leaves. It was this circumstance which caused the curse on the barren fig tree, which had leaves but no figs. A fig tree with leaves ought *a fortiori* to have figs. But this year the cold winds and frost checked and destroyed the fruit buds which ought to have appeared early in March. On a tree in my garden which usually produces hundreds there were about a dozen. The leaves, however, unfolded somewhat later than usual, and the scattered early figs which had escaped the frost developed with them. A month later than the complete growth of the leaves, and after the early figs had attained the size of a hickory nut, the branches were covered with a